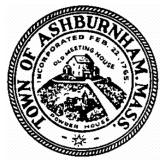
Board of Selectmen Extension 109 **Town Administrator** Extension 109 **Town Accountant** Extension 120 Town Clerk Extension 114 Tax Collector Extension 113 Treasurer Extension 112 or 110 **Board of Assessors** Extension 111 Land Use Office Extension 117 **Planning Board Conservation Commission** Extension 115



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

Town Hall, 32 Main Street Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Animal Control
Board of Health
Building Commission
Conservation Commission
Council on Aging
Cultural Council
Electrical Inspector
Gas & Plumbing Inspector
Historical Commission
Municipal Planning
Parks & Recreation
Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals

PHONE: (978)-827-4100 **FAX:** (978) 827-4105

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT September 3, 2013

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (3) Council on Aging Board, (1) Board of Assessors, (1) Advisory Board and (4) Cable Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

Per the recommendation of the Agricultural Commission I ask the Board to vote to appoint Gary Howland to the Agricultural Commission.

FALL TOWN MEETING

Request that the Board vote to open a warrant for a Special Town Meeting to be held on October 29, 2013. I would also like to have the Board set a closing date for submission of articles of October 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

VMS BUILDING

I am waiting for an Asbestos Removal Plan from our engineering company. This is required prior to getting estimates and was a part of the contract for the VMS analysis.

FIRE

Request that the Board sign the Memorandum of Understanding for a one-year contract with the Firefighter Association.

ROAD PAVING

The reclamation and paving of Dunn Road started on August 26th. Lake Road from Sherbet to East Rindge will follow. There is \$174,391 remaining in the Chapter 90 \$300M appropriation that the Governor is refusing to release due to funding questions. I have contacted Senator Brewer's office to ask him as well as his fellow legislators to get the Governor to release these funds. This has a major effect on our roads program.

WATER LINE PROJECT

Tighe & Bond and Weston and Sampson presented proposals to the Water and Sewer Commissioners on August 13, 2013. The Commission reviewed each proposal and voted at their August 27th meeting to select Tighe & Bond as the engineering firm. Hopefully, there will be enough progress on the project to include funding and grant opportunities to have an article on the fall town meeting.

PILOT

The Pilot agreement with Ashburnham Solar (Tenk Energy) is at its final stages. Due to a merger that is happening very soon the new owner "Investry LLC" wants to hold off signing the PILOT until the merger goes through.

ASHBURNHAM BUSINESS COUNCIL

On August 20th I attended the ABC meeting which included the wrap-up of Downtown Day and discussions about amending the Merger Agreement with Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce, and the Council's Structure. The ABC holds meetings every third Tuesday of the month.

Downtown Day- There is a belief that if they could expand the event to the Main Street area they could get better participation from businesses on Main Street. They have requested that the Selectmen look to allow the closing of Main Street for the day.

Council believes that there needs to be more involvement by the area businesses, but to do that the Council needs to offer more. They are looking to ask businesses to come to a meeting, learn about what they do, and give feedback so that the Council can not only support local activities but become a vital source of support to the local businesses.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

In March of this year, our Town Accountant while processing the warrant noticed an irregularity in the Librarian's reimbursement request. When the Librarian was questioned about the discrepancies, the Accountant did not receive a satisfactory answer. The Accountant approached Chairman of the BOS Ed Vitone and myself. I contacted Town Labor Counsel to discuss the issue. Town Counsel laid out a specific approach and steps required to ensure a proper investigation was conducted. The Library Trustees Chair Paula Dowd and the Trustees themselves did exactly as proscribed by Counsel. In the end, the Trustees decided not to pursue the matter any further and although the cost was nearly \$20,000 it was important that any allegations of possible improprieties by employees be investigated to the fullest.

OIL PRICES

This year I have selected to go off the State bid list for number 2 heating oil. Our fuel provider is the same as last year - East River Energy. Price is determined by the Daily Fuel Index, which is currently \$2.8396 there is a \$.1744 delivery charge for a total \$3.014 per gallon. Last year's cost was \$3.1599.

ACCOUNTANT

Tanya's office has been moved to the back office of the Assessor's.

RETIREMENT HEALTH INSURANCE

At the last Annual Town Meeting the Town voted to allow retirees access to the health care on a 50/50 contribution basis. From that we will need to establish eligibility requirements for retirees.

- To be eligible to continue health insurance after retirement, an employee must be eligible to receive a pension through either the Massachusetts Teachers Association Retirement or the Worcester County Retirement System,
- 2. He or she was an employee of the Town of Ashburnham on the day prior to retirement

I will be working with Edd Byrnes our insurance advisor to develop something for the Board to review.